ACT VIII : KARAKURI * MACHINERY
"ONCE UPON A TIME II"

THE WOMAN IN THAT PAINTING IS FRANCINE...

...THE HEAD OF THE AUTO-MATONS?!

GUY... WHERE'S THAT WOMAN RIGHT NOW?

WHAT'S WRONG, NARUMI? YOU KEEP STARING AT THAT PAINTING WITHOUT SAYING A SINGLE WORD...

I'VE SEEN HER...AND I'VE EVEN TALKED TO HER...

SHE LOOKS LIKE THAT GIRL... I BARELY REMEMBER... WHO WAS SHE?

NARUMI, DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT FRANCINE?

...I ALMOST CAUGHT HER, BUT SHE WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE...

A LONG TIME AGO ...

...

DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING THAT WE DON'T? SHE, WHOSE NAME IS SYNONYMOUS WITH EVIL FOR ALL THE SHIROGANES.

THE FIRST OF ALL THOSE AUTOMATONS WE HATE SO MUCH.

SHE'S THE CAUSE OF EVERY-THING.

NO...

I GUESS... I'VE MISTAKEN HER WITH SOMEBODY ELSE.

SHE EVEN...

...LOOKED REALLY SAD.

...DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A TERRIFYING DEVIL...

IN MY MEMORIES... THAT GIRL...

WELL

I...

THAT INFAMOUS DAY, WHEN SHE CAME INTO OUR VILLAGE OF KER'LOIC...

IT'S NORMAL. SHE'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

HNN ...

ZONAPHA'S SYNDROME ...

AND ALSO WITH HER ...

WITH FOUR CLOWNS AND A MAN IN BLACK...

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF MAY.

IT WAS A BEAU-TIFUL DAY...

MORE THAN 200 YEARS AGO...

WE WERE ALL GATHERED IN THE SMALL PLACE AT THE ENTRANCE TO OUR VILLAGE.

SOMEONE TOLD ME THE ACROBATS SHOULD BE COMING ANY MINUTE NOW!

MOMMY, MOMMY, EVERYONE'S ALREADY WAITING!

The inhabitants of Ker'loic had become accustomed to welcoming...

...the artists who were coming to entertain them.

I believe that at that very moment...

...I had almost forgotten about what I had seen the previous night.

"...EVEN FUNNIER!"

"I WILL HAVE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING..."

...was just a bad dream.

I must have convinced myself that what I had seen near the castle...

HAHA HAHA

YES, BUT DON'T SPEND TOO MUCH MONEY!

MADAM, MAY WE BUY CANDIES?

GOOD MORNING, LUCILLE! I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHO'S COMING THIS YEAR... WILL THERE BE A TRAPEZE ARTIST?

MARY, TANIA!

DONG DING

LISTEN, MOMMY! THE BELL IS RINGING!

THEY'RE COMING!

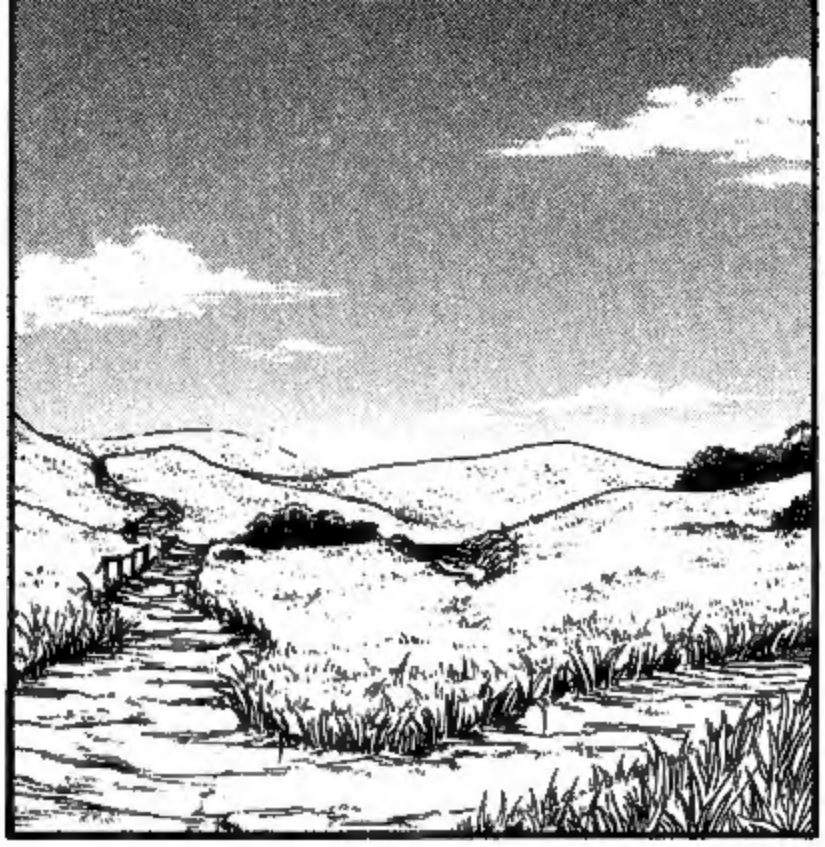
SINCE TANIA IS OUR TEACHER, ALL THE CHILDREN COME TO SEE HER.

DONG DING

DONG DING

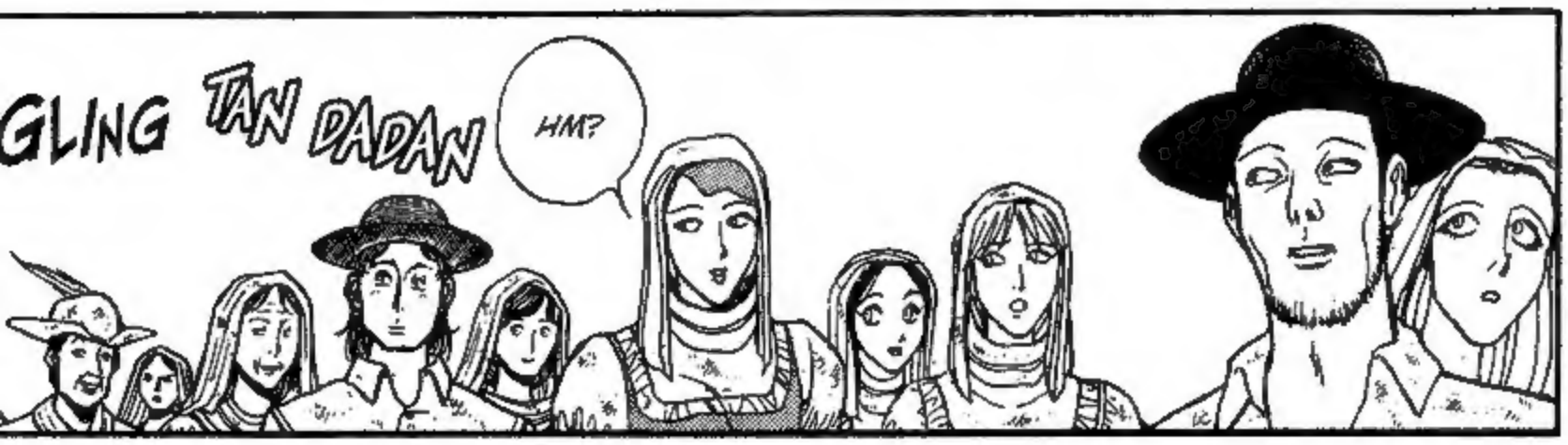
THIS IS STRANGE ...

YES. THERE'S ONLY ONE PATH THAT LEADS TO THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE.



GLING TAN DADAN

HM?



THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

IT'S THE PATH THAT LEADS TO...

THEY'RE COMING BY THE OTHER WAY!

WAAAHH

Before we even had time to react...

The children, impatient as always, were already gone!

VA VA VA VA LANG

TAN DADAN

My son...

...too.

"FROM THE VILLAGERS NEXT DOOR"

"WITH SOME HELP..."

"SO THAT YOU CAN FINALLY LAUGH!"

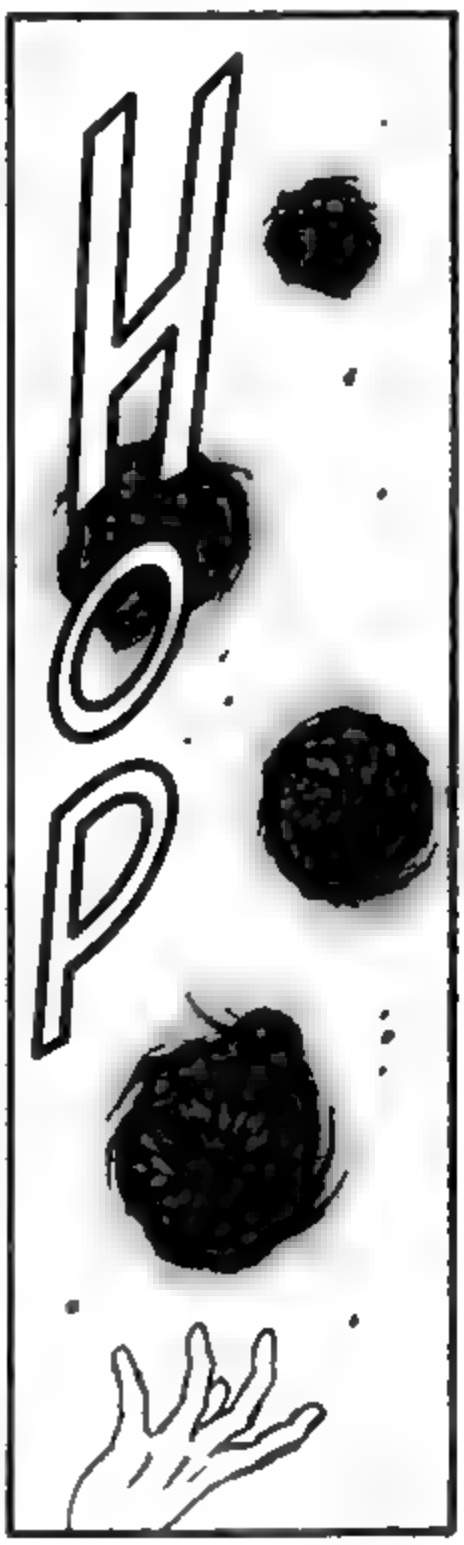
"I WILL HAVE TO SHOW YOU FARCICAL AND RIDICULOUS NUMBERS..."

COME BAAAACK!

They made a strange noise when hitting the floor...

The little coins the children had been given by their parents, at the price of painful chores, were suddenly spread on the floor...falling from their hands...

HOP
HOP


HOP

ZZZ

ON

BO

F

AHHH !!

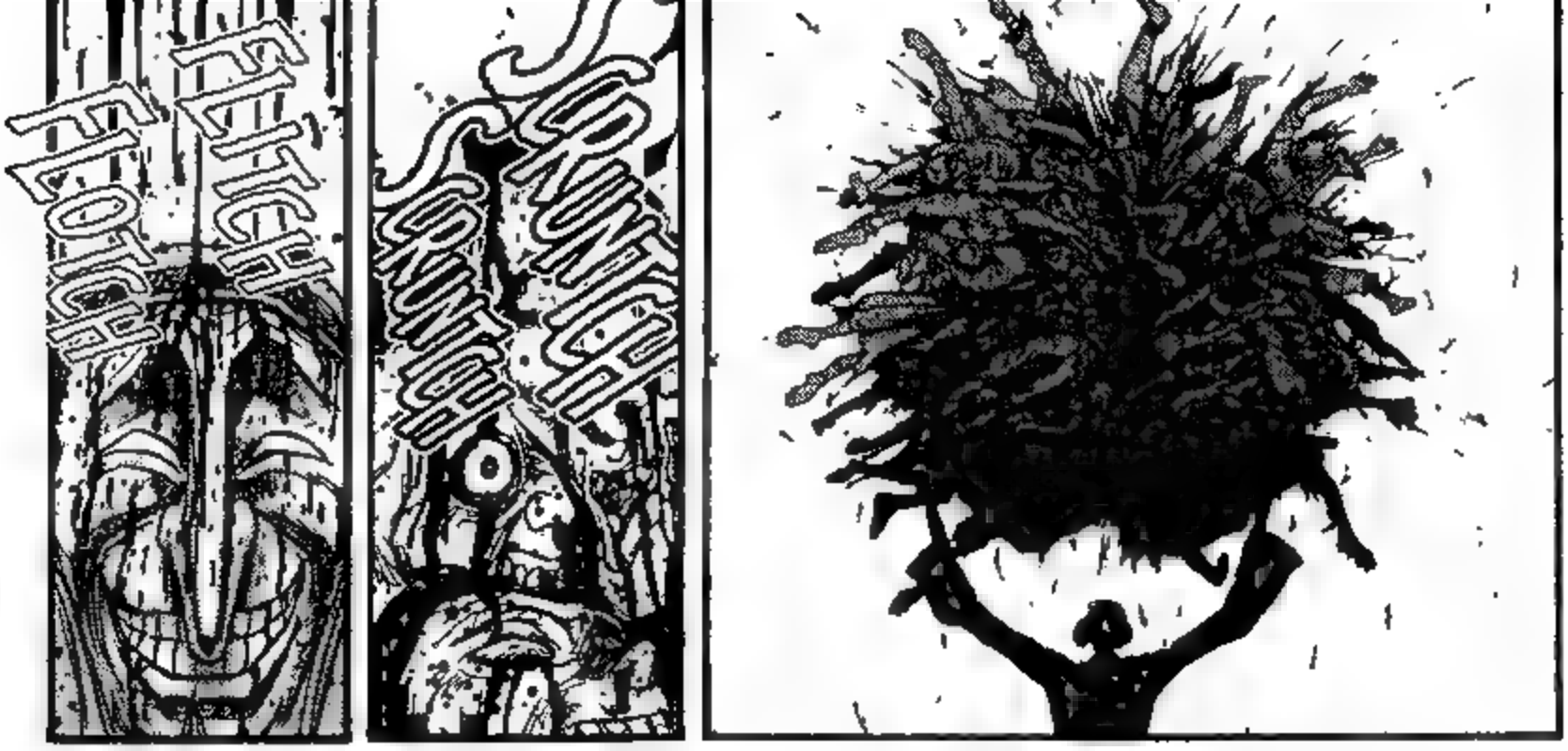
SCH

OHH!

CK

BRA-LAM

AC


FLESH
FORGED
SPUNGE
SPUNGE

SA
H

BRO
LOM

HOP HOP HOP

VLU VLU TCH TCH

AAAAAHHH!!

The music which was still playing mixed with the screams of the villagers...

...Those awful screams... were coming out of my own mouth!

I didn't understand that the screams I was hearing...

AAAH!!

I told myself: "I'm going mad"

"raving mad"

!!AAAH!!

AAHH...

OUAH!

HA HA HA HA

HA HA HA HA

LOOK AT HOW SKILLFUL PANTALON IS! HE'S ROLLING ON A BALL MADE OF HUMAN BODIES!

LOOK AT OUR DEAR DOTTORE! ALL THOSE HANDS AND LEGS THAT ARE JUMPING EVERYWHERE!

HAHAHA!! SO, FRANCINE, WHAT DO YOU THINK? IT'S RATHER FUNNY, ISN'T IT?

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

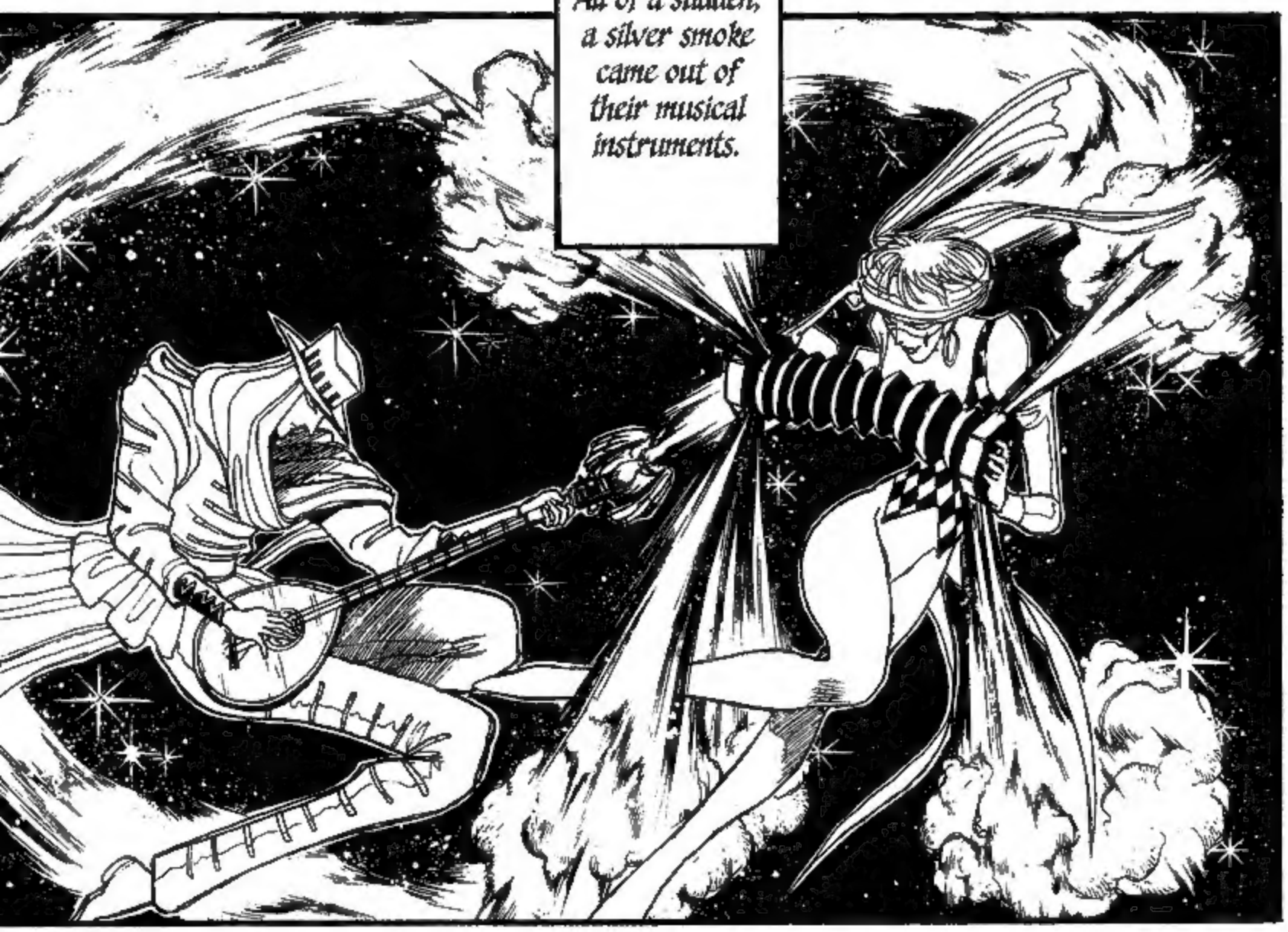
In the middle of those four "monsters" who displayed themselves as farcical figures was the man in black.

COLOMBINE! ARLEQUINO!

COME ON, MY FRIENDS! PRESENT TO ALL THOSE VILLAGERS A BEAUTIFUL PERFORMANCE!

And to his side was standing the famous Francine, with a pale and unexpressive face...

All of a sudden, a silver smoke came out of their musical instruments.



...and entered their bodies!

And that smoke was heading to the villagers, as if it was alive...

YOU'RE GONNA DIE IF YOU CAN'T MAKE OTHERS LAUGH!

HII!

HII!

NOW, YOU'RE ALL CONTAMINATED BY ZONAPHA'S SYNDROME!

HII!

LISTEN TO ME!

It was the first Sunday of May, a sunny Sunday...

YOU'RE ALL GONNA BECOME ETERNAL CLOWNS AND YOU'LL BE FORCED TO DEDICATE YOUR LIVES TO MAKE OTHERS LAUGH!

YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE MY FRANCINE LAUGH!

IF YOU WANNA SURVIVE...

...ALL OF A SUDDEN!

...HELL APPEARED...

IN THE VILLAGE OF KER'LOIC...